

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 SAM-01 /076 W

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R 071425Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7445

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJ: TURKISH REFUGEES ON BRITISH BASES IN CYPRUS

REF: A. ANKARA 092 B. ANKARA 046

1. SEVERAL MAJOR TURKISH DAILIES JANUARY 7 CARRY STORY THAT FONMIN ESENBEL CALLED IN BRITISH AMBASSADOR PHILLIPS ON JANUARY 6 TO DISCUSS THE PLIGHT OF TURKISH REFUGEES ON THE BRITISH BASES IN CYPRUS. ESENBEL, IN REQUESTING A RAPID SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, WAS QUOTED AS TELLING THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR THAT THE PATIENCE OF TURKEY AND TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION WAS RUNNING OUT, AND THAT THE TREATMENT OF THESE REFUGEES AS PRISONERS-- "IN CONTRAVENTION OF LEGAL PRINCIPLES AND ALL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND PRACTICES"--WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR TURKEY TO CONTINUE WITH ITS INTENTION TO COOPERATE WITH BRITAIN IN CYPRUS.

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2. TWO DAILIES (CUMHURIYET AND GUNAYDIN) ALSO REPORTED THAT ESENBEL HAD SENT A LETTER TO BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN REJECTING DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT IN THE DENKTASH-CLERIDES TALKS, AND SAYING THAT THE MATTER WOULD ENTAIL A REVIEW OF TURKISH-BRITISH RELATIONS.

3. QUOTING SOURCES IN THE BRITISH EMBASSY HERE, THE LATTER TWO DAILIES REPORTED THAT BETWEEN LAST JULY AND DECEMBER 24, 18 OF THE REFUGEES ON THE BASES DIED FROM SICKNESS. MILLIYET, PLACING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS AT 35 BASED ON TURKISH CYPRIOT SOURCES, SAID TURKEY HAD ALSO TAKEN UP THE SUBJECT WITH THE U. N. COMMISSION ON REFUGEES.

4. COMMENT: THE REPORTS OF ESENBEL'S MEETING WITH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR APPEAR TO BE BASED ON INTENTIONAL LEAKS BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. TOGETHER WITH RECENT STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT BY REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY LEADER BULENT ECEVIT AND THE TURKS' BOYCOTT OF THE BRITISH NEW YEAR'S PARTY AND OTHER SOCIAL FUNCTIONS(REFTELS), THE NEWS STORIES PROBABLY ARE MEANT AS FURTHER PRESSURE ON THE BRITISH FOR THE RELEASE OF THE REFUGEES. BERGUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLITICAL LEADERS, VISITS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA00160
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750006-0363
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750174/aaaacnai.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANKARA 092, 75 ANKARA 046
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH REFUGEES ON BRITISH BASES IN CYPRUS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, TU, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006